

State of Alaska FY2003 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety Victims for Justice BRU/Component Budget Summary

BRU/Component: Victims for Justice

(There is only one component in this BRU. To reduce duplicate information, we did not print a separate BRU section.)

Contact: Juanita Hensley, Interim Executive Director

Tel: (907) 465-4356 **Fax:** (907) 465-3627 **E-mail:** juanita_hensley@dps.state.ak.us

Component Mission

To provide comprehensive services such as crisis intervention, individual or peer group support, and court accompaniment to Anchorage area crime victims who have suffered from homicide, felony assaults (other than domestic violence and sexual assault), robbery and burglary.

Component Services Provided

Victims For Justice (VFJ) provides the following services to victims of crime other than domestic violence and sexual assault:

- 1) Crisis intervention to victims experiencing acute stress because of a violent crime. Available 24-hours a day for support to victims.
- 2) Individual and peer group, specialized grief counseling.
- 3) Advocacy and support throughout the law enforcement, criminal justice and medical systems.
- 4) Referrals and cooperative relationships with the police, medical examiner's office, district attorney's office, Division of Family and Youth Services, court personnel, corrections, violent crimes compensation and other victim services providers.
- 5) Assist in the preparation of victim impact statements.
- 6) Preparation and distribution of specialized materials aimed at reducing the impact of violent crime of victims.
- 7) Court accompaniment and information about the criminal justice process for survivors of homicide, during and after the trial proceedings.
- 8) Community prevention and education.
- 9) Private remembrance ceremonies for the family of victims of homicide.
- 10) Court-watch program provides trained neutral non-victim volunteers to monitor and produce public evaluation reports on the criminal justice system.

As evidenced by the utilization of services by victims in Anchorage, VFJ is a much needed service. Legislative appropriations provide a means to continue these quality victim services.

Component Goals and Strategies

To reduce the impact of crime on victims, their families and the community by providing services to survivors of homicide victims and victims of physical assault. Funds appropriated for this program are administered by the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Key Component Issues for FY2002 – 2003

When looking at violent crime in Alaska, the crime rate is often viewed as an indicator of how Alaska is doing. While recent statistics report that the rate of major crime has dropped in the last few years, it is important to note that the decline was from an exceedingly high rate to begin with. Statewide there are thousands that are victimized by crime. When noting the ripple effect crime has on families, friends and communities, there are literally tens of thousands of Alaskans who are touched by crime.

Victims of violent crimes experience acute stress, overwhelming grief, and the need for information about all aspects of their victimization. Victims For Justice (VFJ) meets these needs through crisis intervention, individual and peer group support, advocacy and court accompaniment.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2001

-In FY2001 the following services were provided to a total of 515 victims of violent crime:

- 794 individual and group counseling sessions
- 226 legal advocacy services
- 217 outreach and education services

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

1. Grants to named recipients, AS 37.05.316

Victims for Justice
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2003 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0
73000 Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0
74000 Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0
75000 Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	246.0	246.0	246.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	246.0	246.0	246.0
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	246.0	246.0	246.0
Funding Totals	246.0	246.0	246.0

Victims for Justice**Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2003**

The current level of service will be maintained without significant changes.

Summary of Component Budget Changes**From FY2002 Authorized to FY2003 Governor***All dollars in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2002 Authorized	246.0	0.0	0.0	246.0
FY2003 Governor	246.0	0.0	0.0	246.0